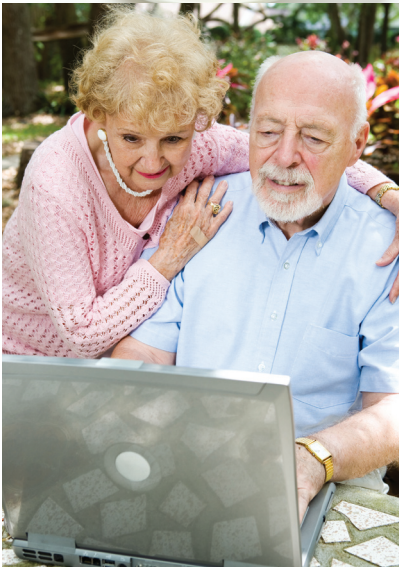


# FOOD STAMP AND TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF) PROGRAMS - POSSIBLE CHANGE IN BENEFIT AMOUNTS



The amount of Food Stamp and **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)** benefits you receive each month may change, beginning January 2009.

This change is due to the annual cost-of-living adjustment in the Social Security Administration (SSA) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) checks, as well as a change in the Medicare premium.

If you disagree with the new amount of Food Stamps or TANF you receive, you have the right to request a fair hearing. At the hearing you will have a chance to explain why you think this change is incorrect, and a hearing officer will decide if you are right.

If you disagree with the new amount of your benefits, you have the right to request a fair hearing. You may request a hearing on your Food Stamp case within the next 90 days (30 days for TANF) as long as the issue appealed is based on the improper computation of your benefits, or the misapplication or misinterpretation of federal law or regulations. If your benefits decreased, you have the right to continue to receive your previous amount until the hearing officer writes a final decision; however, you may have to repay benefits you are over issued if the hearing officer agrees with the action taken. You may request a hearing by contacting your worker at your local Social Services Agency or you may call **1-800-552-3431**.

## **YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR SAVINGS ASSISTANCE**

The Virginia Individual Development Accounts (VIDA) Program can help individuals with earned income. Saving for your first home? Saving to start a business? Saving to continue your education? Enroll in the VIDA Program! You could earn up to \$4,000 in match funds. To learn more, call **1 (888) VIDA-WIN** or visit: [www.dhcd.virginia.gov/VIDA](http://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/VIDA).

## **YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT (EITC)**

EITC is a tax credit for low-to-middle income individuals and families. An individual or family making as little as \$1 could qualify, but you must file an income tax return to get it – even if the IRS doesn't require filing for your income level. An individual earning up to \$12,880 a year or a family with children earning up to \$41,646 per year might qualify and an EITC refund might be as much as \$4,824. For more information call **1 (888) VIDA – WIN**.

## **IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, CONTACT YOUR LOCAL SOCIAL SERVICES WORKER.**

Also, please notify your worker if you move, or if you have other changes you are required to report.